

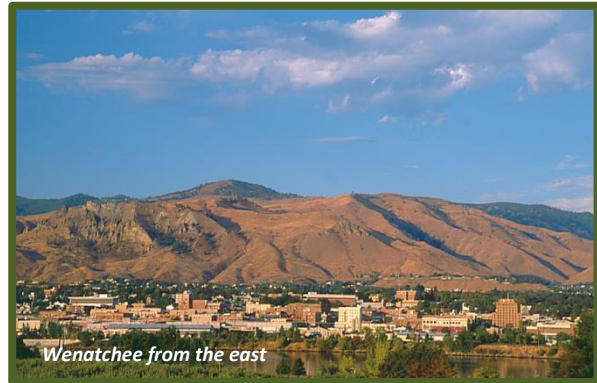


Chapter 2: Planning Area Description

2.0 Overview

The City of Wenatchee is located in Chelan County in eastern Washington. It lies on the east-facing slopes of the Cascade Mountains along the shores of the Wenatchee and Columbia Rivers.

Other communities within service area of the City of Wenatchee include: East Wenatchee, Malaga, Rock Island, Cashmere, Monitor, Peshastin, Dryden, Orondo, Entiat and Leavenworth. State Route 2 on the north and State Route 28 on the south feed into the City of Wenatchee. The main north-south corridor through Wenatchee is Mission Street/Chelan Avenue which is State Route 285.



Wenatchee is a destination location along the Stevens Pass Electric Vehicle Highway and Stevens Pass Greenway Scenic Byway.

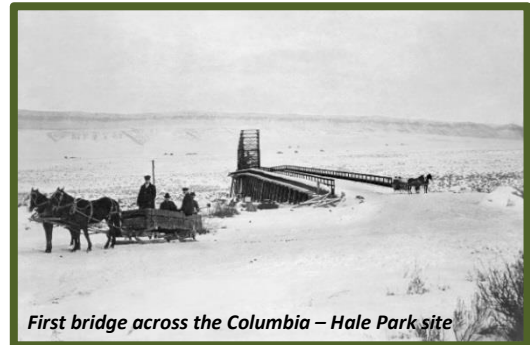
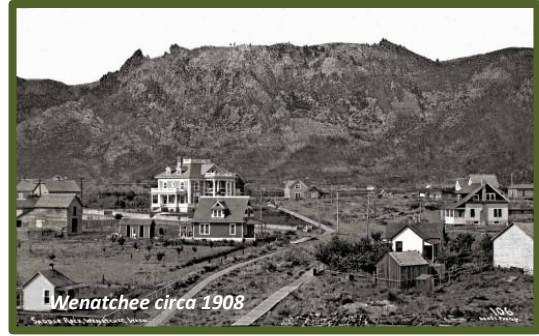
Link Transit bus services has intra and intercity routes that connect to an expanding network of on-road and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities. The main transit hub in downtown Wenatchee is Columbia Station, a nationally recognized multimodal transportation center. Along with Link Transit service, there are two daily westbound Northwestern Trailways intercity bus routes and a single eastbound route that utilizes the station. Amtrak's *Empire Builder* stops across the street from Columbia Station and offers daily westbound rail service in the early morning and eastbound service in the late evening.

2.1 History



The Wenatchee tribe (also spelled Wenatchi) lived along the Wenatchee River, which flows from the Cascades into the Columbia River. Wahnaachee is the name given to the tribe by the Yakima Tribe, who passed it to explorer Captain William Clark in 1804. They spoke a version of the Salish language. The culture and economy of the tribes centered on fishing, with some members gathering roots and berries and hunted game. Trappers visited the Wenatchee Valley from 1810's through the 1840's in search of beaver pelts. White settlers arrived in the Wenatchee Valley in the 1870's and 1880's. Don Carlos Corbett founded the town of Wenatchee in 1888. He named it after the tribe. As with

the rest of the state, the spur to growth and development came with the arrival of the railroad. The first trail from the East arrived on October 17, 1892. The residents of Wenatchee voted for incorporation on December 23, 1892. In 1899, the State Legislature created Chelan County out of Kittitas and Okanogan counties with Wenatchee as the county seat. Cash crops could not succeed without water and the story of agriculture in Chelan County begins with irrigation. Starting in 1901, businessmen and landowners raised money for the Wenatchee Canal Company to construct the Highline Canal which runs 14 miles from Dryden to Wenatchee. The Wenatchee Canal Company later became the Wenatchee Reclamation District. In 1908 the first bridge to cross the Columbia River was constructed, linking Wenatchee to the east. The bridge now is a pedestrian connection to East Wenatchee and provides support for an irrigation pipeline. Wenatchee got its first electric lights in 1923 from a water-powered generator that was located on the Squilchuck River and built by druggist and schoolteacher L.V. Wells. In 1930, Washington voters approved an initiative allowing the formation of public utilities districts. Congress created the Bonneville Power Administration in 1937 to distribute the dams' cheap and abundant electricity to publicly owned utilities.

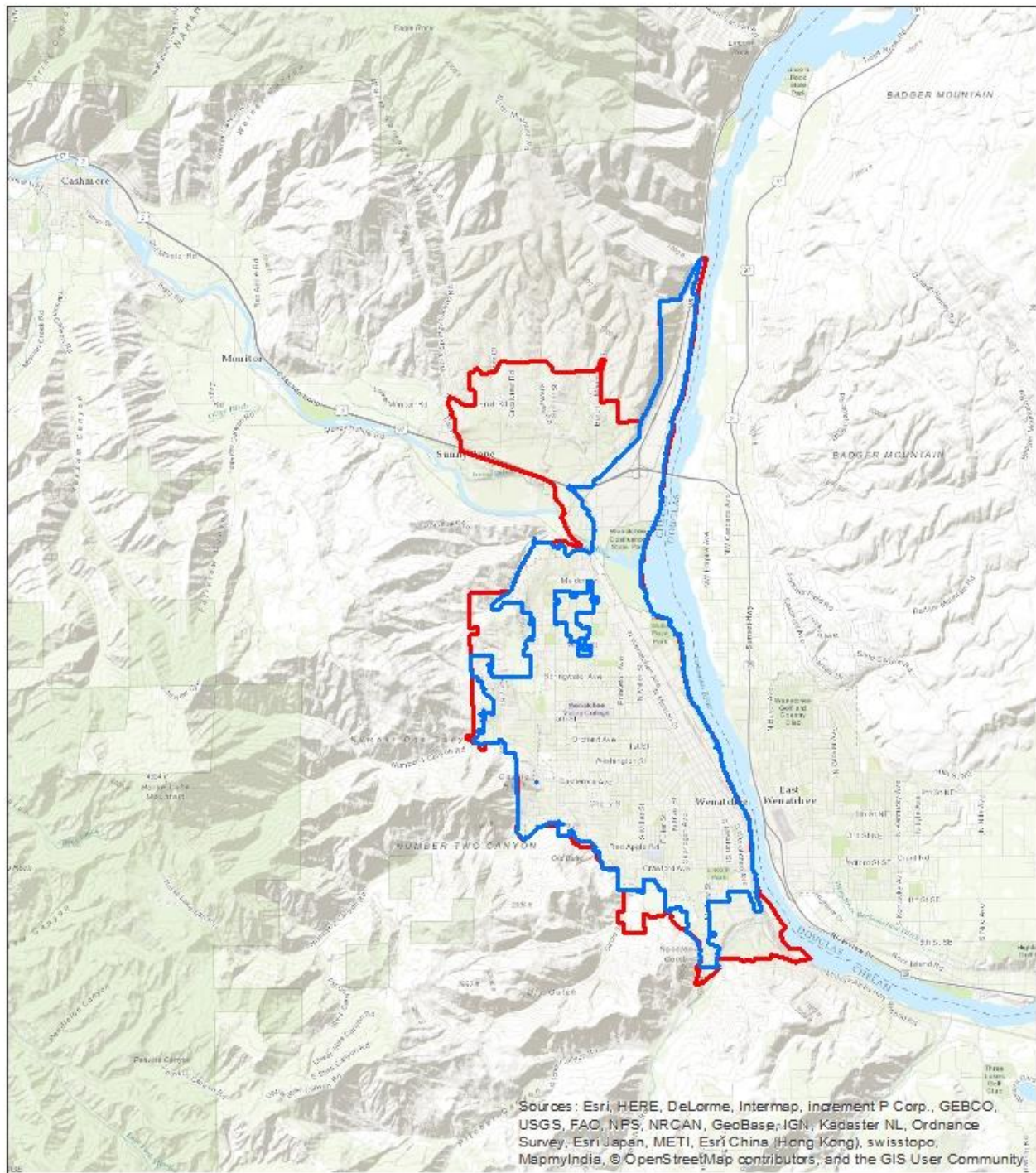


2.2 Planning Area Description

The boundaries of the planning area are defined by the Wenatchee urban Growth Boundary (UGA) and physically by the shores of the Columbia River to the east, the Wenatchee foothills to the west, the Squilchuck drainage to the south and Sunnyslope/Burch Mountain area to the north. The planning area map is contained on the following page.

Wenatchee is the largest community in Chelan County that provides many opportunities and amenities for residents and visitors. Wenatchee attracts visitors and new residents each year due to the area's abundant outdoor recreation activities, natural beauty, and low-cost energy. It is an active sports community with state and regional events, boating activities, winter sports and annual festivals that draw visitors from throughout the Pacific Northwest.





Legend

- City Limits
- Urban Growth Area



0 0.5 1 Miles



City of Wenatchee Recreation and Open Space Comprehensive Plan

Planning Area Map

2.3 Physical Setting

The Wenatchee Valley is composed of a series of ridges and benches which are bisected by a number of drainage corridors. Over time, this has created dramatic vistas of the Columbia River from the foothills of the Cascade Mountains. Wildlife corridors within publicly owned lands such as Sage Hills, Chelan County Public Utility District Homewater Property and Foothills North Natural Area provide areas for protection of mule deer and other common game species. Natural grasslands and shrub steppe communities thrive on the foothills series of benches and ridges. The Columbia and Wenatchee Rivers are the two major rivers. There are a number of seasonal or minor streams in the canyons of the planning area that drain into the Columbia River. Located at the confluence of the Wenatchee and Columbia Rivers and as part of Confluence State Park is the Horan Natural Area. This area provides a vegetated riparian corridor and streamside wetland coverage for wildlife habitat.



2.4 Climate



Wenatchee is located on the arid eastern side of the Cascade Mountains at an elevation of about 600 feet above sea level. With four distinct seasons, and a boasting of over 300 sunshine-filled days a year as well as a snow filled winter season, the area realizes temperatures in the high 80's and low 90's in July and mean lows at 35 degrees in January. The average annual precipitation is about 9 inches with a mean growing season of 170-190 days. As the famed *Apple Capital of the World*, the climate supports a variety of fruit orchards and provides an outdoor recreation paradise.

2.5 Land Use

According to the Washington State Office of Financial Management, there are over 10 square miles of existing land within Wenatchee. 71.5% is designated as residential and slightly less than 10% is designated as commercial and 7.9% designated parks and public facilities.

Nineteen percent (3,182 acres) of this area is in public ownership, with the Bureau of Land Management and Chelan Public Utility District (PUD) owning the majority of land in public ownership. The remaining 81 percent of private land is owned by private landowners, with the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust owning nearly 2,600 acres (nearly 20 percent of the

private land), primarily located in the northwest portion of the study area in the Horse Lake area.

2.6 Outdoor Recreation Resources

The planning area serves as an outdoor recreational Mecca for local residents and visitors. Whether heading out the backdoor for a quick hike, paddle, run, or bike ride, or making a longer trek along the spine of the Wenatchee foothills, the area provides an easy to access, close-to-home recreational resource and economic driver for the greater Wenatchee community. Because habitat areas often serve multi functions which also provide valuable outdoor recreation opportunities, the overlapping connection between the two uses must be recognized. In recent years, The City of Wenatchee has partnered with the Chelan Douglas Land Trust and the community on a concerted effort to protect a land for both outdoor recreation and habitat purposes for current and future generations. Whether on one of the areas rivers or on a trail in the foothills, the majority of outdoor recreation in the area occurs on lands or waters that are preserved for outdoor recreation, education and habitat.



The foothills trail system has been developed over time, creating a patchwork of formal and informal trails open to a variety of users. While some of the trails are on public land owned by the City of Wenatchee, Chelan PUD, or on quasi-public land ownership by Chelan Douglas Land Trust, many trail segments are located on private land and are only open to the public through the good graces of private landowners.

Currently there are nearly 40 miles of trails and multiple trailheads or informal access points in the planning area. Some of these trails and trailheads or access points are more formal than others, providing a higher level of management and oversight.

2.7 The Arts

The arts bring people together across boundaries, increasing understanding across disparate and historically unequal groups to help create a community that is vibrant and connected. Wenatchee serves as the arts and cultural hub of north central Washington with a variety of programs and facilities that serve the region. Ranging from performances held at the



Town Toyota Center, Performing Arts Center, Riverside Playhouse and in the parks to a variety of installations and facilities that serve the community such as the many murals, large public art collection and well revered Arts on the Avenues Program.

Artists and arts organizations are an important resources in the city's path to building connections. Opportunities for more even footed conversations among groups lead to insight and shared sense of community. These intern lay the groundwork for exploration about how to maintain vital cultural and community traditions while inviting much needed neighborhood investment.



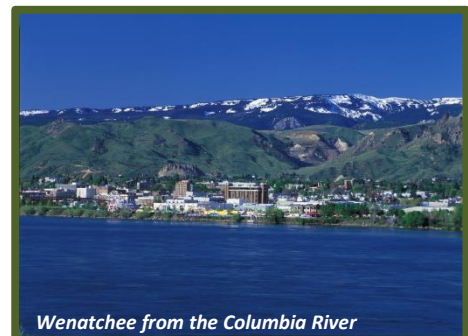
2.8 Wildlife and Habitat

The shrub-steppe environment in the planning area is one of limited water, hot summers, cold winters, and gusty winds. Plant communities are characterized by flowers such as balsamroot, lupine, and yarrow, and common shrub-sized plants such as sagebrush and bitterbrush. Higher elevations are scattered with stands of ponderosa pine and douglas fir. Lower elevations and draws are dotted with thickets of maple and wild cherry. Meadowlark, quail, and hawks are among the numerous birds living in the landscape along with snakes, lizards, and coyotes. Elk, big-horn sheep, turkeys and cougars are also occasionally seen in the area. During winter, mule deer depend on the lower elevations of the foothills for winter forage.

2.9 Scenic Views

The Wenatchee foothills not only provide a scenic backdrop to the city of Wenatchee they also provide incredibly scenic vistas of the Columbia River, Wenatchee Mountains, and Wenatchee River Valley. Citizens involved throughout the public outreach process emphasized their appreciation for the visual relief and scenic views.

This “scenic backdrop” encompasses approximately 2,800 acres of the planning area and includes areas such as Saddle Rock, Castle Rock, Burch Mountain, Dry Gulch, and the Sage Hills. Of this area, approximately 40 percent is in public ownership or private ownership with a conservation easement.



2.10 Housing

The expected population increase of 6,093 by 2037 for the Wenatchee urban area creates an additional demand for housing for the already limited housing inventory. With an average size of 2.44 persons per household there is a 2,497 housing unit demand based on the “medium” Washington State Office of Financial Management estimated population forecast.

2.11 Demographics

Population characteristics of a community are vital to determining local demands for facilities and programs. A review of Wenatchee's population characteristics helps to determine what types of facilities should be developed.

Table 2.11 Demographic characteristics – Age

AGE	QUANTITY	PERCENT
0 to 9 years	4,774	15%
10 to 19 years	4,511	14.1%
20 to 29 years	4,572	14.3%
30 to 39 years	3,894	12.2%
40 to 49 years	3,807	11.9%
50 to 59 years	4,002	12.5%
60 to 69 years	2,700	8.5%
70 to 79 years	1,854	5.8%
80 and older	1,811	5.7%

Source: 2010 U.S. Census

2.12 Current and Forecasted Population

To determine population growth projections, figures were extrapolated from the Office of Financial Management (OFM) medium estimated population forecast. The projected total includes those areas outside of the City limits of Wenatchee but within the planning area. Out of 280 cities in the State of Washington, Wenatchee is the 11th most densely populated city according to OFM statistics.

Table 2.12 Population Forecast

	2015	2020	2025	2030
Wenatchee UGA	38,921	40,729	42,481	44,017
Chelan County	75,180	78,586	81,885	84,778

2.13 Race and Ethnicity

Wenatchee is slightly more racially diverse than Chelan County and Washington State. In terms of ethnicity, Hispanics make up a larger percent of the population in Wenatchee than in the County or the State.

Table 2.13 Demographic Characteristics - Race

RACE	WENATCHEE	COUNTY	STATE
White alone	77%	79%	77%
Black/African-American alone	< 1%	< 1%	4%
American Indian or Alaska Native alone	1%	1%	2%
Asian or Pacific Islander alone	1%	< 1%	7%
Other race alone	17%	16%	5%

Two or more races	3%	2%	4%
ETHNICITY	WENATCHEE	COUNTY	STATE
Hispanic/Latino (of any race)	29%	26%	11%

Source: U.S. Census, 2010.

2.14 Income and Education

In the 2011-15 time period, 81.4 percent of people 25 years and over had at least graduated from high school and 23.9 percent had a bachelor's degree or higher. Eighteen percent were dropouts; they were not enrolled in school and had not graduated from high school. The total school enrollment in Wenatchee was 7,931 in 2016.

In May 2011, full-time workers age 25 and over without a high school diploma had median weekly earnings of \$444, compared with \$633 for high school graduates (no college) and \$1,150 for those holding at least a bachelor's degree. Among college graduates with advanced degrees (professional or master's degree and above), the highest earning 10 percent of male workers made \$3,336 or more per week, compared with \$2,291 or more for their female counterparts.

The median income of households in Wenatchee was \$46,865. Seventy-one percent of the households received earnings and 18 percent received retirement income other than Social Security. Thirty-three percent of the households received Social Security.

Among the most common occupations were: Educational services and health care 22 percent; retail trade 13 percent; Arts, entertainment, recreation and food and accommodations 12 percent; Agriculture, forestry fishing and mining 10 percent; and Professional , scientific, management and administrative services 9%.

2.15 Special Needs



In Wenatchee, among people at least five years old in 2015, 12.3 percent reported a disability of some kind that limited daily activities or self-care. The likelihood of having a disability varied by age - from 6 percent of people 5 to 17 years old, to 21 percent of people 18 to 64 years old, and 64 percent of those 65 and older.

The Arts, Recreation and Cultural Services Department serves as the primary coordinator of recreation programming and services for special populations in the community. Programs are designed to provide engaging social, athletic and fitness activities for individuals with developmental disabilities. Many of the programs offered are made possible through the receipt of grant funding and sponsorships.

2.16 Management and Operations

The City operates under the strong Mayor-Council form of government. The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department receives policy direction and advice from the City Council and their appointed advisory bodies including the Arts, Recreation and Parks Commission.



Among other services, the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department is responsible for coordinating community recreation and event programming, oversight of the Public Art Collection and provision of art programs and services, operation of the City Pool, park acquisition and development and park planning. Park maintenance and operations are organized and operated primarily under the Public Works Department.